

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR HIS WEEKLY
RADIO BROADCAST OF AUGUST 28, 1958 (RECORDED AUGUST 23).

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS:

If I had to describe the session of Congress that has just been concluded in one word, the word would be "spendthrift." Since last January 7, Congress has appropriated approximately 72 billion dollars, a peace-time record for a single session of Congress.

This is the same Congress which, during its first session in 1957, was known as an economy Congress. In 1957, Congress slashed the Administration's budget by 4 and a half billion dollars, making it possible to balance the budget and show a slight surplus.

Then came Sputnik and the recession. That was all the advocates of an all-powerful central government needed to start a spending spree which converted the hitherto balanced budget of the first session into a deficit of 2.8 billion dollars, and which will finally result in an estimated 12-billion dollar deficit for the fiscal year ending next June 30.

Some of the spending, of course, was imperative because of the high cost of the military establishment. We must continue to pay the price for adequate national defense. Congress made some progress this year in helping the Defense Department prepare itself for the new concepts of warfare brought about by advances in rocketry, nuclear power, and space exploration, but further efforts are needed. Congress also assisted the Defense Department /

by approving a much-needed reorganization plan/which should help promote efficiency and economy/while reducing waste, duplication, and interservice rivalry. In addition, Congress recognized the necessity of maintaining strong ground forces, including Reserve and National Guard units.

Congress again placed too much emphasis on economic aid and military aid/to support foreign governments/which are not friendly to the United States, or which could not be counted on for help in the event of war. The foreign aid and reciprocal trade bills passed this year/will harm the United States/more than they will help.

Congress showed a concern about States' Rights/and the usurpation of the powers of the States/by the Federal government, through the Supreme Court. Although the Senate voted 41 to 40/to recommit the States' Rights bill to committee, I am hopeful that a climate of opinion has been developed/which will make it possible to enact legislation along this line/during the next session of Congress.

On the other hand, Congress made the serious and irrevocable step/of approving Statehood for Alaska, paving the way for the election of more Congressional representatives/who will insist on greater centralization of powers in the Federal government, and enhancing the chances of the admission of Hawaii, with its non-American traditions and Communist influences.

Congress took steps to aid the national economy/by enacting legislation aimed at easing the problems of the farmer, the

small businessman, and the railroads, but it failed to enact effective legislation to curb racketeering in labor unions.

Using national defense as a pretext, Congress approved *an education bill which is an entering wedge for* ~~a~~ general Federal-aid-to-education ~~bill~~, although this is a field properly left to the States by the Constitution.

In general, Congress showed an alarming disposition to spend money/as though it had a limitless amount at its disposal, and to impose new Federal controls in every sphere of activity.

With this brief summary of the accomplishments of the second session/of the 85th Congress, I am bringing this series of radio reports to a close. I wish to thank each of you for listening, and to express my appreciation for the letters I have received commenting on these broadcasts. My thanks, too, to ~~the~~ *for making* radio stations ~~which have made~~ the time available. I will begin a new series of broadcasts next January.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

-END-